

REMARKS

The Office requires restriction of the claims to one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-4 and 12-15, drawn to a diblock copolymer of formula A-B;

Group II, claims 1 and 5-7, drawn to a diblock copolymer of formula A-B, wherein polymer block B represents a polymer comprising monomers selected from those listed in claim 5;

Group III, claims 1 and 8-11, drawn to a diblock copolymer of formula A-B, wherein polymer block A represents the polymer listed in claim 8;

Group IV, claims 1, 16 and 17, drawn to a composition comprising an active ingredient and one or more diblock copolymer of formula A-B;

Group V, claims 1, 16 and 18-21, drawn to a pharmaceutical dosage form;

Group VI, claims 1, 16, 18 and 26, drawn to a pharmaceutical package;

Group VII, claims 1 and 22, drawn to the process of claim 22; and

Group VIII, claims 1 and 23, drawn to the process of claim 23.

In response, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 12-15 (1) with traverse with regard to Group II; and (2) without traverse with regard to Groups, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII. Applicants respectfully submit that like claims 1-4 and 12-15, claims 5-7 recite a diblock copolymer of formula A-B wherein polymer block A represents a linear pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic polymer with a molecular weight < 1,000 and polymer block B represents a polymer comprising at least two different monomers selected from the monomers recited therein. Applicants respectfully submit that a search and examination of the claims in Groups I and II would not place an undue burden on the Office. MPEP § 803.

Early consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Should the Office require anything further, it is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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